



**Connecticut State Medical Society  
Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Physicians  
Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Surgeons  
Testimony on House Bill 5335 An Act Concerning Lyme Disease Testing**

**Public Health Committee  
March 7, 2012**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 8,500 members of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the Connecticut Chapters of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Surgeons, thank you for opportunity to provide this testimony on **House Bill 5335 An Act Concerning Lyme Disease Testing**.

Connecticut physicians and members of our organizations have been at the forefront in establishing guidelines and policy for the treatment of Lyme disease since it was recognized as a medical condition. Therefore, as the committee seeks to "review policies for Lyme disease testing in this state and in other states," it is imperative that the appropriate physicians in medical specialties that treat patients with this disease continue to be involved.

In addition, we respectfully request what you consider minor amendments to the proposed language. First, in Section 1(b) (1) we urge the committee to require that at least one person experienced in the study of infectious disease is a licensed physician in the state of Connecticut. Second, as much of the research and care/management for Lyme disease falls to rheumatologists the committee should include such a specialist. Third, we, recommend that the committee also be expanded to include a physician specializing in neurology as a category or specialty of physician who treats patients with Lyme Disease for reasons indicated below. Finally, all physicians should be board certified in their respective specialties.

The true name of Lyme disease is "Lyme Borreliosis." It is an infectious disease caused by at least three species of bacteria belonging to the genus *Borrelia*. A significant disorder caused by the *Borrelia* bacteria is *Neuroborreliosis*, a disorder of the central nervous system caused by infection with a spirochete of the genus *Borrelia*. Conditions of the nervous system are within the specialty of neurology. Therefore, it is critical that language be amended for the inclusion as requested.

As usual, we stand at the ready to assist the committee in its goal to review existing policies regarding Lyme Disease testing. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to ensure the best outcome for patient in Connecticut and beyond.